b) subsequently calculating a network usage charge from the measurement data generated by step (a); and

c) sampling usage of the network resources by at least one of the customer terminals by measuring a portion of the usage only by the at least one of the customer terminals and comparing this measurement, with respect to the sampled usage, with one or both of the usage of network resources measured by the at least one customer terminal in step (a) and the network usage charge calculated in step (b).

a3

4. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of aggregating measurement data produced by a series of measurements at a respective customer terminal.

a4

10. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein sampling the usage is carried out by a network operator and comprises sampling part only of the traffic communicated between a customer terminal and the network and, for the sampled traffic, further comprises comparing the sampled network usage with data communicated from the customer terminal to the network accounting object and thereby detecting any discrepancy.

a5

a5 cont.

11. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which a network accounting object is configurable to receive data from a measurement object controlled by a network operator or from a customer terminal.

a6

14. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising communicating a tariff to each of the customer terminals, and calculating at each of the terminals from the tariff and from accounting data the network usage charge.

a6

27. (Amended) A method of operating a communications network comprising a plurality of network domains, the method including determining a price for a data transmission between one domain and an adjacent domain by:

a) announcing, by the one domain, both a price for receiving the data from the adjacent domain and a price for transmitting data into the adjacent domain;

b) announcing, by the adjacent domain, both a price for receiving data from the one domain and a price for transmitting data into the one domain;

c) calculating an edge price for the data transmission from the difference between either the price for receiving announced in step (a) and the price for transmitting announced in step (b) or the price for transmitting announced in step (a) and the price for receiving announced in step (b), depending on the direction of transmission of the data.